

Art therapy workshop



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# Frederick C. Neff Lectureship promotes professional growth

Wayne State University has the only graduate art therapy program in Michigan, making the opportunity to gather and learn from fellow professionals especially valuable for students and faculty.

In 2018, the program hosted the Art Therapy Spring Symposium, thanks in part to funding from the Frederick C. Neff Endowed Memorial Lectureship in Philosophy and Education. The symposium brought together students, alumni, faculty members and professionals to network and share ideas.

“It’s exciting to see the past, present and future of art therapy at Wayne State together here in one room,” said Holly Feen, associate professor and program coordinator.

Wayne State graduate student Liza Hinchey led a workshop on mindfulness and said the event offered important professional development with an opportunity for critical feedback.

“I wanted to come to this event because it’s an opportunity to get in touch with other professionals. It’s like a mini conference with people from around Michigan,” Hinchey said. “I love teaching people who aren’t in this field, but it’s nice to present to peers who can provide input.”

The Neff Lecture was the symposium’s keynote, delivered by art therapist Paula Howie, who spoke about her decades of experience working

with military families in the Washington D.C. area. “The Wayne State program is very well thought of,” said Howie. “This is the first time I’ve been in Detroit, and I’m glad they could bring me here to do this.”

The Neff Lectureship honors the memory of Frederick C. Neff, one of the country’s most highly regarded philosophers of education. Neff joined the College of Education faculty at Wayne State in 1959 and served as a professor for 21 years.

The endowed lectureship was created in 1996 with a generous gift from Neff’s friend and fellow educator Pauline Bergener ’32, M.Ed. ’44. Since then, the Neff Lectureship has brought leading thinkers to Wayne State to discuss numerous topics including positive psychology, the relationship between race and education, and more.

The Neff Lecture promotes critical thinking by sharing different perspectives, which Hinchey enjoyed about the symposium. “One of my favorite parts about research and practice is that no two people have the exact same way of thinking about something,” she said. “I’ll talk to someone else about my research, and there’s always a different way to approach it.”